

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-13 and 17, drawn to a method for pretreating a polymer substrate and coating with fluoroalkyl containing silicon compounds; and

Group II: Claims 14-16, drawn to a polymeric substrate with a fluoroalkyl containing silicon compound coating.

Restriction is only proper if the claims of the restricted groups are either independent or patentably distinct. The burden of proof is on the Office to provide reasons and/or examples to support any conclusion with regard to patentable distinctness. MPEP §803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction on the grounds that the Office has not provided adequate reasons and/or examples to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups.

The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups I and II as related as process of making and product made. Citing MPEP §806.05(f), the Office concludes that the product as claimed can be made by different processes such as "electron-beam, a polymeric primer, heating, etc." However, there is no evidence of record to show that the claimed product can be made by any one of these alleged alternative processes. Furthermore, even if, *arguendo*, the claimed product can be made by one of the Office's proposed alternative processes, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not shown how they are *materially* different from the claimed process. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for restriction is improper, and request that it be withdrawn.

Moreover, MPEP §803 states as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions."

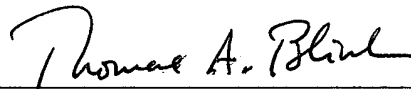
Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the requirement for restriction. Applicants therefore request that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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